

**GREAT LAKES BASIN ECOSYSTEM TEAM MEETING
DECEMBER 8-9, 2004
JOHN G. SHEDD AQUARIUM – CHICAGO**

Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Priorities and Collaboration Opportunities

***“To make a great dream come true,
you must first have a great dream.”
-- Hans Selye***

Meeting Goals:

- ✓ Determine Team's role and contributions to address Great Lakes priorities and needs to be strategic
- ✓ Develop a Coastal Habitat Initiative, Provide Input and Direction for Migratory Bird Conservation and Invasive Species Initiatives, and Continued Support for our ongoing Team Priority Committees
- ✓ Identify, share, explore, discuss and compile listings of collaboration opportunities, challenges, unmet needs, and milestone targets
- ✓ Think big, strive to do more and better, but also celebrate and enjoy what we have done, and to focus down on near term actions
- ✓ Use of new technology, to become more proficient with it, and encourage more use of

Meeting Objectives

- ⇒ Address continuation of Team's efforts to serve USFWS Programs for a Great Lakes focus
- ⇒ Identify strategic Great Lakes fish and wildlife collaborative opportunities, actions
- ⇒ Provide input for Team/Committees '05 Strategic Action Plans – Commitments
- ⇒ Explore Shedd Aquarium Coastal America Great Lakes Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center Opportunities
- ⇒ AZA – Service MOU Great Lakes partnership opportunities for Great Lakes fish and wildlife
- ⇒ Develop Team focus – priority actions
- ⇒ Develop ideas for new Team Coastal Habitat Initiative/Committee
- ⇒ Address Team adaptive management measures, challenges, and needs
- ⇒ Explore, develop and advance a strategic multiple scales ecosystem approach for restoration targets that fit into a context of a regional plan(s)
- ⇒ Develop recommendations to R3 and 5 RMT/RDTs
- ⇒ Identify follow up actions and milestones for Team and Executive Committee

Meeting Products:

- Summary of Identified Team and Service Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Opportunities, Challenges, Unmet Needs, Actions, Commitments, Recommendations, and Follow-up Steps and Milestones
- 2005 Team and Committee Strategic Action Plans

- ❑ Vetted Draft USFWS Great Lakes Strategic Framework Proposal
- ❑ CD of meeting presentations, information materials, meeting minutes, and summary of decisions and commitments

Meeting Facilitators and Support Staff:

Meeting Facilitator: Marcia Damato, GLNPO
Meeting Support Staff: Christine (Chrissy) McConaghy, GLNPO
Candace Cunningham, USEPA Region 5

AGENDA

DAY 1 - Shedd Aquarium Soundings Boardroom

8:30 Welcome, Introductions, and Meeting Overview

Shedd Aquarium Welcome and Orientation - Bert Vescolani, Senior VP Aquarium Collections and Education

Overview of Team's Evolution, Great Lakes Opportunities, and Meeting Goals and Objectives – Rich Greenwood, Team Leader

Emphasis on new challenges and opportunities (i.e. Governors Priorities; GAO recommendations for Great Lakes monitoring and indicators; GLBETs evolving role and approaches - new Team Coastal Habitat Initiative); and the need to be more strategic and proactive than ever.

Agenda Check – Recap of Meeting Business Guiding Principles

Introductions – Each participant to identify very briefly what they like best about the GLBET, or if new, what they would like to learn about GLBET

9:00 Regional Directors Perspectives on Great Lakes and Team – R3 Regional Director Robyn Thorson, and R5 Regional Director Marvin Moriarty via speaker phone, or his representative in person

Discussions/Interaction with Regional the Directors: Team/Committees:
Roles, Relationships to Programs, Opportunities, and Actions –

Opportunities for Collaboration – Brief Presentations to Promote Collaboration Discussions and Action Decisions

9:45 Islands Committee – Megan Seymour, Island Committee Chair

“Rollout” of GLBET Product: presentation of TNC Great Lakes USFWS/GLBET supported **“Biological Ranking Criteria for Conservation of Islands in the Laurentian Great Lakes.”** - Dave Ewert, TNC Great Lakes Program

10:10 **Lake Sturgeon Committee** – Remotely by Emily Zollweg

10:30 – 10:40 **Break: this break purposely shortened**

10:40 **Endangered Species Committee** – Jack Dingledine, Co-Chair

11:00 **Team Committees Updates** – *Brief, bulleted briefings - draft 2005 strategic action plans: activities, proposed actions, and needs – highlight opportunities for collaboration to be presented for each Team Committee – Priority Initiative.*

Outreach Committee – Rachel Levin, Chair

GIS/Decision Support Committee – Chris Castiglione, Chair

Invasive Species Committee - Mike Goehle, Co-Chair and R5 ANS Coordinator

GLBET Web Site – Anjie Bowen, Web Site Manager

Announcements regarding:

Migratory Bird Conservation Initiatives - Bob Russell, Co-Lead

New Coastal Habitat Committee – David Stilwell, Co-Chair

11:20 **Special Shedd Aquarium Tour**

12:15 **Lunch – Shedd Aquarium Soundings Restaurant**

1:00 **Collaboration Opportunity Presentations Continued**

Great Lakes Globally Significant Migratory Bird Stopover Sites Demonstration Project – Dave Ewert, TNC Great Lakes Program, and Team Migratory Bird Co-Leader

Migratory Bird Program Strategic Plan – Bob Russell, Team Migratory Bird Co- Leader

On the way to being more strategic: Determining and Mapping Great Lakes Fish & Wildlife Priority Areas, What's Necessary to Make It Happen

1:40 TNC's proposed **Great Lakes Conservation Blue Print Catalog of Conservation Areas** - John Andersen, TNC Great Lakes Program Director, Mary Khoury, TNC Great Lakes

2:05 **Canadian Great Lakes Blue Print Update** – Dan Kraus, Nature Conservancy of Canada

2:15 **Approaches and Partnering to Map Great Lakes Critical Habitat Areas** - John Perrecone, EPA

2:40 **A Proposal: DOI Great Lakes Framework for Collaboration:** meeting the shared Great Lakes priorities, developing good science support: research,

information, monitoring priorities – Norm Granneman, USGS Great Lakes Coordinator

Discussion of Identifying and Mapping Great Lakes Fish & Wildlife Priority Areas Facilitated Discussion: Marcia Damato, GLNPO

3:00 – 3:20 **Break**

Opportunities to Collaborate with the Nations Newest Coastal America Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center – And the American Zoological Association

3:20 **Shedd Aquarium Coastal America Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center –**
Bert Vescolani, Senior VP Aquarium Collections and Education

CA CELC Regional Implementation Team – Judy Beck, GLNPO

3:50 **American Zoological and Aquarium Association – USFWS MOU –** Invited:
Steven Olson, Director Government Affairs AZA; Michael Hutchins, AZA; and Jim Robinett, Shedd Aquarium and Incoming Vice Chair of AZA Government Affairs Committee

Other project updates and announcements of interest to these collaborative opportunities:
Endangered Species Piping Plover – Spotted Knapweed Proposal Opportunity
Great Lakes Fishery & Ecosystem Restoration Program Update - USACOE

3:45 **Collaboration Exploration**

Ideas for CELC and AZA Partnerships – how the Service can meet their commitments, Team and Committee Strategic Action Plans, and attaining “strategic traction” for Great Lakes fish and wildlife

5:00 **Adjourn**

6:30 **Team Dinner :** Gibsons Steak House/Hugo’s Frog Bar – N. Rush Street

DAY 2 – Shedd Aquarium Group Holding Room

Continuation of Great Lakes Collaboration Opportunities

8:00 **Other Service/Great Lakes Initiatives/Opportunities of particular interest to the Team -**

Eastern Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Wetlands Opportunities Update – Tom Jasikoff

Green Bay Cat Island Chain and Coastal Habitat NRDA Restoration – Joel Trick GBFO,
and Vicky Harris Wisconsin Sea Grant
Other Great Lakes NRDA Opportunities – and Legacy Act Technical Oversight
Committee -
Great Lakes Areas of Concern Fish, Wildlife, Habitat Delisting Targets – Karen
Rodriguez, GLNPO and Matt Doss, Great Lakes Commission
R3 Great Lakes Listening Session; USFWS Science Excellence Initiative Update–
Tom Magnuson via the web
Chicago Wilderness Update – John Rogner
U.S. Policy Committee Updates, including Great Lakes Strategy Reports –
SOLEC Updates –
Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Indicators: SOLEC, St. Clair River – Western Lake Erie
Corridor Proposal -
National Fish Habitat Initiative – TBA

8:40 Midwest Natural Resources Directors Group **Garlic Mustard Invasive Species
Project:** Lessons Learned and Implications for USFWS – John Perrecone, US
EPA R5

RE-FOCUSING: GETTING MORE STRATEGIC

9:00 **New TNC Great Lakes Coastal Protection Strategy-** John Andersen and Dave
Ewert TNC Great Lakes Program

9:25 **An Organizing Tool for Getting Coordinated and Strategic:** Discussion:
vetting, and forwarding the Service Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Strategic
Action Framework

9:40 **Brainstorming: Idea Generating/Digestion/Discussions/Organizing Morning
Topics – Major Great Lakes Initiatives**

10:00 – 10:20 **Break**

EXPLORATIVE DISCUSSION OF OPPORTUNITIES, COLLABORATIONS AND ACTIONS

10:20 **Great Lakes Executive Order Calling for a Regional Collaboration of
National Significance:**

Great Lakes Executive Order Interagency Task Force – Regional Working
Group Opportunities – Charlie Wooley, Region 3 Deputy Regional Director

Updates of Great Lakes Congressional Task Force, NEMWI, Congressional Great
Lakes Restoration Legislation, GAO Report Recommendations, Mayors
Initiative: Dr. Karen Vigmostad, NEMWI

Report Out on December 3 Great Lakes Executive Order Conveners Meeting and
Regional Collaboration Great Lakes Framework Restoration Summit Issue
Areas Strategic Teams – By Participants

Discussion of Opportunities, Needs, and Commitments

Such as: Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Indicators, Monitoring, Assessment, and
Results Reporting Needs

**11:00 Input for Team and Committees 2005 Strategic Action Plans, Committee by
Committee**

Charge to Committees, Meeting Participants to Complete During Lunch

12:00 Lunch – Shedd Aquarium Beluga Whales Overlook and Project Area

**1:00 Discussion of Team Fit, Roles, Niche and Relationship to Programs for Great
Lakes Fish and Wildlife Resources** – How do Team Members see our best fit,
means to provide added value, and what changes could make us more effective.
And specifically, the relationship between the Team and the Programs of the
Service

Team Priority Rankings and Follow-up Actions – Identify Next Steps,
Assignment of Leads, Point of Contacts, milestones, and other commitments as
needed

2:45 Team Business: Date and Site of Next Meeting(s), Plan for Election of new
Team Leader and Team Leader Elect, Summarize Action Items and Next Steps,
Evaluation of meeting.

3:00 Adjourn

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR OUR MEETING

- ❖ Share your perspective and ideas freely
- ❖ Listen to each other's perspective and ideas
- ❖ Don't be afraid to disagree, but also seek areas of agreement

Meeting Materials Provided Prior to/or at Meeting:

- 2005 Draft Team and Committee Action Plans
- AZA – USFWS MOU
- Draft USFWS Great Lakes Strategic Framework
- Draft USFWS Great Lakes Roster
- Biological Ranking Criteria for Conservation of Islands in the Laurentian Great Lakes
– A new Team product (cover, table of contents, Introduction – Purpose, List of
Appendices

- Migratory Bird Program Strategic Plan
 - National Fish Habitat Initiative
 - Great Lakes Fishery & Ecosystem Restoration Program – USACOE
 - Great Lakes AOC Fish and Wildlife Populations and Habitat Reports
AOC, NRDA, Legacy Act Updates
 - St. Clair River – Western Lake Erie Ecosystem Indicators
 - Team SOLEC Great Lakes Ecosystem Indicators Reports
 - GAO Great Lakes Reports – Summaries
 - Great Lakes Calendar
 - Region 3 Conservation Priorities – R5 counterpart if available
 - Chicago Wilderness Annual Report
 - Great Lakes Invasive Species Paper – Mike Goehle
 - Partners information handouts
- Others...